

The American NUMISMATIST

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No. 1.

ON COLLECTING:

This is the age of collections and the spirit of gathering together and classifying is abroad. It shows itself in the gigantic museums, the vast art and antiquarian collections and the great libraries that grace the capitals and literary centers of the world, that have become the meccas of so many pilgrims today.

This spirit has gathered force as it crossed the waters, and in our young republic great progress has been made. The old world and the ages of the past are yielding their tribute to us and the time will come when the country that has given, by far the greatest exposition, will have the grandest museums and collections of art.

The day is coming when the old world will study from American masters; when pilgrimages will be to the Occident rather than the Orient.

We have lately established in Washington, one of the largest museums on the globe. A museum, though yet in its infancy, in some departments has no equal. States vie with states in the greatness of their collections in the different fields of science and art.

Cities and public institutions feel the influence and local societies and collections are established. The enthusiasm of our youth catches the prevail-

ing spirit and the different tastes are shown in the variety of their collections.

A sign of the time most favorable, is the spirit of our youth in these matters; weak and feeble as the efforts may be, fruit will be borne in the future.

It is a hopeful sign when the youth of any land turn their attention to the making of collections; whether it be of coins, minerals, Indian relics, paper money, birds eggs, autographs, postage stamps, fossils or curios, it matters not, from any of these lines much may be learned, and the taste cultivated will invariably lead to something higher and better. The germ is there, fruit will be borne some day.

For variety, complexity, and innumerable of their coinage, commend us to those small principalities and powers that were of Germany. Fifteen years ago, with a few dozen specimens we vainly thought our set was complete now, with upwards of a thousand varieties, we find we have just begun.

There is nothing you can collect that will represent so much, if properly bought, as a variety of fifty, one or two hundred coins.

Printed on the old original press of 1888

O N THIS PRESS—

approximately fifty years ago this month, August 1888, the first issue of the "Numismatist" was in the process of becoming a reality. Probably its creator had not the least conception that its existence would reach the half century mark, however, its publisher, Dr. George F. Heath, of Monroe Michigan, builded better than he knew when he started to print this little four page sheet, the first number coming out dated September - October 1888.

Every bit of the type of the first six volumes, or up to 1894, were set by the Doctor's own hands and printed by himself on the little printing press which you see before you in the exhibit. Not pretentious in appearance, in fact, somewhat crude, the little magazine laid a foundation that the American Numismatic Association was builded on, and has survived since its organization in 1891. Since that date, each has lived, one for the other, an incentive so necessary in avocations, and were the little press able to speak, it no doubt would, and in no uncertain terms as to its offspring, the A. N. A., which has so ably carried on through all these years.

The reproduction of the first page of the "Numismatist" is reduced in size from the original, having no intent in mind to reprint the first issue, which might spoil the sentimental value to those fortunate enough to possess one of the few existing early numbers. This also would be an impossibility, as nearly all of the original body type has long been lost.

The press itself, is a "Model" 5x8 inches patented in 1874, and was built by the Model Press Co. then of Philadelphia, now of York, Pennsylvania. This particular press was built about 1883, Doctor Heath obtaining it in 1885. Probably no one person who views the exhibit feels a greater thrill, than the little old press itself.

The page size of the first number was about 5 x 8 inches, and printed one page at a time. While not definitely known, it is estimated that a few over one hundred were printed, of which there are possibly ten or twelve of Number One, altho there are not over ten complete set of volumes known to exist. Dr. Heath at no time, ever had a set for himself.

In addition to the press you will see a "stick" of type, just as the Doctor left it, the form being the names and addresses of new subscribers as received up to June 1908. This was his method of printing the mailing list and the type used is some of that used in the first six volumes. For the most part, that which is used in printing this booklet, is some fifty years old,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that this little press is able to attend the "Golden Jubilee" of the "Numismatist," and more than fitting, that by being here at the A. N. A. Convention in Columbus, this August 1938, it is substituting in spirit for the Doctor himself, who attended his last convention here in 1907.

This booklet was made possible thru the co-operation of the Detroit Coin Club and the reproduction was made from a copy owned by one of its members. The second largest coin club in the United States, the Detroit club welcomes you at any of its meetings, held the first and third Thursdays every month.



May the A. N. A. never write "thirty"